

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2769

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 6651

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, EC

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA STUDENT ABROAD PROGRAM

REF: STATE 207804

1. DR. JACQUES WILSON, DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA'S "COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ABROAD" PROGRAM WAS IN GUAYAQUIL SEPTEMBER 21 AND 22 TO STRAIGHTEN OUT HIS FLEDGING STUDY-WORK ABROAD PROGRAM AND PROBLEMS ATTENDED BY SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF SEVEN OF PROGRAM'S PARTICIPANTS IN GUAYAQUIL WITHOUT PROPER VISAS AND WITH NO FOREWARNING TO THEORETICALLY PARTICIPATING HOST ORGANIZATIONS.

2. WILSON ALSO VISITED QUITO AND DISCUSSED PROGRAM WITH PAO BELL AND CAO TOWNSEND BEFORE RETURNING TO FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 24.

3. WILSON WAS CONFIDENT THE STUDENTS ORIGINALLY TOTALLING 12 (SEVEN IN GUAYAQUIL, TWO IN QUITO, THREE MORE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE) WOULD BE PLACED IN PAYING JOBS, WOULD ENROLL IN UNIVERSITY COURSES, AND WOULD FIND ADEQUATE HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS.

4. MISS MARIA ALAVA OF FULBRIGHT COMMISSION STAFF IS HELPING WITH HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS. ALAVA APPARENTLY IS TAKING PLACE OF FORMER FULBRIGHT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LUIS VALVERDE, NOW ON STUDY LEAVE IN THE STATES WHO WILSON IDENTIFIED AS WEST FLORIDA'S REPRESENTATIVE, VALVERDE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HAVE ARRANGED PROGRAM AND JOBS FOR THE STUDENTS.

5. PROBLEM OF LEGAL STATUS OF STUDENTS ON TOURIST VISAS BUT WANTING TO WORK WAS TURNED OVER TO DR. LUIS ANDRADE, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. ANDRADE VISITED FOREIGN RELATIONS MINISTRY AND REPORTS VISAS CAN BE CHANGED ALLOWING STUDENTS TO WORK UPON PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE STATING WHERE STUDENT IS EMPLOYED AND AT WHAT SALARY.

6. STUDENTS ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING JOBS MAINLY IN ENGLISH TEACHING POSITIONS AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, GUAYAQUIL AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN GUAYAQUIL AREA.

7. ONE STUDENT HUGO SUAREZ AND WIFE, WHO WILSON HAD THOUGHT WOULD BE PLACED AT POLITECNICA, DEPARTED GUAYAQUIL SEPTEMBER 30 FOR FLORIDA APPARENTLY DISILLUSIONED WITH THE PROGRAM. THIS MAKES PRESENT TOTAL OF 10 ON PROGRAM INCLUDING THE THREE DUE TO ARRIVE.

8. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF STATUS OF PROGRAM.

9. FOR THE FUTURE SUGGEST HEW INFORM STATE OF ITS OVERSEAS PROGRAMS AND ETA'S OF PARTICIPANTS.
BREWSTER

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